

Message Text

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15
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, IN, BG
SUBJECT: SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE - SECOND DAY ON
FARAKKA BARRAGE ITEM

REF: USUN 5335

1. INDIAN WAS THE ONLY SPEAKER IN THE UN SPEICAL POLITICAL
COMMITTEE (SPC) DEBATE ON THE FARAKKA BARRAGE ISSUE, NOV. 16.
FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA DELIEVERED INDIA'S RESPONSE TO
BANGLADESH'S REMARKS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE MAIN THRUST
OF THE INDIAN STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE CRUX OF THE ISSUE IS THE PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BY TWO NEIGHBORS TIED TOGETHER BY A
SINGLE RIVER;

(B) THE ISSUE IS NOT SUITABLE FOR HANDLING BY THE UNITED
NATIONS, BUT RATHER SHOULD BE SOLVED BY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH;

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(C) INDIA WILL NEVER AGREE IN ANY CASE TO THE CLOSING DOWN

OF THE BARRAGE.

2. IN GENERAL, INDIA PROJECTED AN AIR OF SWEET REASONABLENESS WHILE ATTEMPTING TO DEMOLISH THE ARGUMENTS PRESENT TO THE SPC BY BANGLADESH. THE GEOGRAPHIC, CLIMATIC AND TECHNICAL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE AMOUNT AND AVAILABILITY OF WATERS IN THE GANGES WERE REVIEWED, AND THE LEGAL AND MORAL RIGHT OF INDIA TO AN APPROPRIATE SHARE OF THE WATER WAS DEFENDED. MEHTA CRITICIZED THE BANGLADESH ATTEMPT TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE FARAKKA ISSUE, NOTING THAT THIS ATTEMPT HAS MADE A SOLUTION MORE DIFFICULT. ALLUSION WAS MADE TO THE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE PREVIOUS BANGLADESH (I.E., MUJIB) REGIME IN CONTRAST TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IN SEEKING A SOLUTION TO USE OF GANGES'S WATERS. THE INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ENDED ON THE NOTE THAT THE UN IS NOT A PROPER FORUM FOR SETTLING THE FARAKKA DISPUTE.

3. THE SPC CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD RETURN TO A DISCUSSION OF THE "ISRAEL PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" ISSUE ON NOVEMBER 17, INVITING DELEGATIONS WISHING TO SPEAK ON FARAKKA ISSUE TO INDICATE THEIR INTENTION. DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON FARAKKA WAS NOT SET. IN MISSION OPINION, THOUGH, FARAKKA COULD REAPPEAR ANYTIME FROM NOVEMBER 18. (THERE ARE 18 SPEAKERS INSCRIBED FOR ISRAELI PRACTICES ITEM SO FAR AND NONE AT PRESENT ON FARAKKA.)

4. TEXTS OF BOTH INDIAN AND BANGLADESH STATEMENTS ON THE FARAKKA BARRAGE ISSUE ARE BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, MARKED: MR. ROBERT PECK, IO/UNP. PLEASE SHARE DOCUMENTS WITH NEA. SCRANTON

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